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RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR, UNDP NIGERIA CHIEF VIEW ELECTIONS, AI

Classified By: Political Counselor Russell J. Hanks for reasons 1.4(b)
and (d)

¶1. (U) Ambassador, DCM, Political and Economic Counselors,
and Embassy, Centers for Disease Control, and USAID officers
met on September 14 in Abuja with Alberic Kacou, the new UN
Development Program resident coordinator in Nigeria.

¶2. (U) The Ambassador and Kacou discussed the coordination of
UN and USG assistance to Nigeria in helping it meet the
challenges of carrying out its upcoming national elections,
and addressing avian influenza (AI).

¶3. (C) The U.S. Mission provided Kacou with detailed
assessments of the state of Nigeria's election preparations
and its halting efforts against AI, while Kacou presented the
United Nations' readout of these issues. Common areas of
concern included the independence of the Independent National
Electoral Commission (INEC), logistical preparations across a
large country for voter registration and polling stations,
and Nigeria's deficiencies in AI surveillance and laboratory
testing and confirmation. In particular, on elections, Kacou
said a recent UN-sponsored assessment of INEC's
information-technology capacity had revealed serious
shortcomings. For example, many servers and communication
lines were not installed or maintained.

¶4. (C) COMMENT: The Embassy and the U.N. in Nigeria had
essentially identical analysis and conclusions concerning
Nigeria's elections and the avian flu. Both agreed to
increase U.S. Mission and UN cooperation in these areas.
CAMPBELL